

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7721

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS PARIS 7117

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS CDES, FR

SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS TURKISH AIRLINES CRASH

REF PARIS 6812

1. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE CONFLICTING ADVICE FROM FRENCH AUTHORITIES ON ADVISABILITY OF HAVING FAMILY MEMBERS OF VICTIMS COME TO PARIS TO ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING EFFECTS AND/OR REMAINS. GENDARMERIE AT SENLIS HAS NOW SORTED OUT AND ARRANGED EFFECTS FOR IDENTIFICATION BY FAMILIES, AND IS ANXIOUS TO PROCEED WITH THIS PHASE OF TASK AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. INSTITUT MEDICO-LEGAL CONTINUES TO REQUEST THAT FAMILIES NOT COME AT THIS TIME, AND HAS REFUSED TO ALLOW THOSE FAMILIES WHO HAVE COME TO VIEW ANY REMAINS. 2. TURKISH AIRLINES HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT, IN ORDER TO COOPERATE WITH INSTITUT, AIRLINE WILL NOT AUTHORIZE FREE TRANSPORTATION FROM U.S. FOR FAMILY MEMBERS UNTIL MEMORIAL SERVICE HAS BEEN ARRANGED. AT THAT TIME, IDENTIFICATION OF EFFECTS, OF BODIES (IF FOUND), AND MEMORIAL SERVICE COULD PRESUMABLY BE ACCOMPLISHED IN ONE TRIP. TURKISH AIRLINES INSIST THAT THOSE FAMILIES WHO COME AT THIS TIME MUST PAY THEIR OWN EXPENSES. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE AIRLINE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONE TRIP BY FAMILY MEMBERS, AT TIME REQUESTED BY FAMILIES, WHETHER NOW OR AT TIME OF MEMORIAL SERVICE. WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

3. INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS FOR TURKISH AIRLINES, BEAUMONT AND CO. OF UNCLASSIFIED

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LONDON, GIVE SIMILAR INFORMATION AS TURKISH AIRLINES. HOWEVER,

BRITISH EMBASSY REPORTS THAT IN FACT FAMILIES RESIDENT IN U.K. ARE BEING BROUGHT TO PARIS DAILY FOR PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING EFFECTS. TRAVEL IS ARRANGED THROUGH PICKFORD'S TRAVEL AGENCY, AT EXPENSE OF BEAUMONT. BRITISH EMBASSY IS NOT SURE, HOWEVER, THAT UNDERWRITERS OF AIRLINE WILL PAY FOR A SECOND TRIP FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FAMILIES RESIDENT IN U.K., AND WE ESTIMATE THERE WOULD BE EVEN LESS CHANCE OF THIS FOR FAMILIES COMING FROM U.S.

4. FOR THE PRESENT, THEREFORE, WE WOULD STILL ADVISE THOSE FAMILIES IN THE U.S. TO POSTPONE COMING TO PARIS UNLESS THERE IS SPECIAL REASON TO

DO SO. IN NO CASE SHOULD THEY ASSUME THAT EXPENSES OF TRIP WILL BE PAID BY TURKISH AIRLINES UNLESS TRAVEL IS ARRANGED THROUGH TURKISH AIRLINES OR TWA (WITH AUTORIZATION TURKISH AIRLINES). THEY SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT THERE IS LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF BEING ALLOWED TO VIEW THE REMAINS, OR TO OBTAIN RELEASE AT THIS TIME OF ANY BODY NOT "RECONSTITUTED" AND POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED THROUGH INSTITUT MEDICO-LEGAL.

5. FOR THOSE FAMILIES RESIDENT IN U.K., REQUEST EMBASSY LONDON CONTACT NOK OR BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE TO INFORM THEM OF ABOVE AND INQUIRE WHETHER THEY WISH SEND SOMEONE TO IDENTIFY EFFECTS. WE ASSUME TURKISH AIRLINES/BEAUMONT WILL NOT PAY FOR TRIP EXCEPT FOR MEMBERS OF FAMILY OF VICTIM.
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